



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated alkaline protease ~~having~~ consisting of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein one or more amino acid residues selected from those located at (a) position 15, (b) position 16, (c) position 166, (d) position 167, (e) position 187, (f) position 346, and (g) position 405 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 are replaced with the following amino acid residues, respectively:

- (a) histidine,
- (b) threonine or glutamine,
- (c) glycine,
- (d) valine,
- (e) serine,
- (f) arginine, and
- (g) aspartic acid,

wherein said alkaline protease has alkaline protease activity.

2. (Currently Amended) An isolated alkaline protease ~~having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or~~ consisting of an amino acid sequence ~~having that is~~ at least 95% ~~homology with~~ homologous to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein one or more amino acid residues selected from those located at (a) position 15, (b) position 16, (c) position 166, (d) position 167, (e) position 187, (f) position 346, and (g) position 405 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ No: 1, or at positions corresponding to these positions, are the following amino acid residues or are replaced with the following amino acid residues, respectively:

- (a) histidine,

- (b) threonine or glutamine,
- (c) glycine,
- (d) valine,
- (e) serine,
- (f) arginine, and
- (g) aspartic acid,

wherein said alkaline protease has alkaline protease activity.

- 3. (Withdrawn) A gene encoding the alkaline protease as described in claim 1.
- 4. (Withdrawn) A gene encoding the alkaline protease as described in claim 2.
- 5. (Withdrawn) A recombinant vector comprising the gene as described in claim 3.
- 6. (Withdrawn) A recombinant vector comprising the gene as described in claim 4.
- 7. (Withdrawn) A transformant comprising the vector as described in claim 5.
- 8. (Withdrawn) A transformant comprising the vector as described in claim 6.
- 9. (Withdrawn) The transformant according to claim 7, in which a host is a microorganism.

10. (Withdrawn) The transformant according to claim 8, in which a host is a microorganism.

11. (Withdrawn) A detergent composition comprising the alkaline protease as recited in claim 1.

12. (Withdrawn) A detergent composition comprising the alkaline protease as recited in claim 2.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended.

The amendment of Claims 1 and 2 is supported by the corresponding claims as originally filed and the original specification (see, for example, page 6, line 17 to page 8, line 20), including the Examples.

No new matter has been added by the present amendments.